



**CITY OF RIVER FALLS WISCONSIN
UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
September 16, 2019**

The meeting of the River Falls Utility Advisory Board was called to order by Utility Advisory Board Chair Adam Myszewski at 6:30 p.m.

Utility Advisory Board Present:

Adam Myszewski, Mark Spafford, Tim Thum Patrick Richter, and Kellen Wells-Mangold

Utility Advisory Board Absent: Scott Morrisette and Kevin Swanson

Staff Present: Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; City Clerk Amy White; Finance Director/Controller Sarah Karlsson; Conservation & Efficiency Coordinator Mike Noreen; and WPPI Energy Services Representative Stacie Running

Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting Minutes: 08-19-2019

MSC Richter/Thum approve minutes. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Myszewski opened the floor for comments.

Patricia LaRue, 489 Marcella Court spoke on the renewable energy proposal and provided hydro/dam statistics showing a community owned and operated renewal energy source could supplement the City's general fund.

William Hanson, Town of River Falls spoke on the diminishing power grid and how renewal energy will assist in sustainability.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgement of the following minutes:

- a. West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission – 7-18-2019

MSC Thum/Richter to approve Consent Agenda. Unanimous.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Tabled Discussion to Establish Renewable River Falls (100 Percent Renewable Energy Declaration for City Facilities) *(from August 19, 2019)*

Westhuis introduced Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator Mike Noreen. Westhuis added an update to the Board regarding continued conservations on the topic of renewable River Falls. The Board should see the City as a customer, adding, the City will purchase the remaining green blocks necessary to achieve this goal. Noreen provided a presentation on renewable energy usage in River Falls, what is behind the meter and how it works, and outlined a phasing system to reach the established renewable energy goals.

Westhuis added the first two phases are driven by customer purchases. Phase three will require the assistance of the Utility Advisory Board with policy options and how to continue progress.

Myszewski inquired if goals have been established, which none have. UAB members discussed the options of upgrading the current hydro and what the cost benefit would be. Adding the question of, why would we have this type of initiative while also getting rid of something that is providing renewable energy.

REPORTS:

WPPI Project Updates Report

WPPI Energy Chief Information Officer Phil Hansen provided a presentation explaining member-ownership in WPPI energy, industry issues and business updates, and how WPPI stays diverse and competitive while also supporting local needs.

Westhuis informed the Board he has seen an improvement in the last four years. Northstar enhancements have allowed staff the power to unleash the potential of the program which increases customer satisfaction. UAB members continued the conversation asking about the Governor's goals and how it compares to WPPI's portfolio. Hansen stated they have a representative at the State level who is also monitoring PSC requirement in attempt to stay in line with established goals.

Finance Report

Karlsson explained year-to-date revenues, expenses and investment reserves relating to the electric, water, sewer and storm water funds through August. Karlsson clarified why it appears costs are in the red, however, at years end, when project costs are capitalized, we will be on budget. Karlsson added while we are budgeting on track the sales are lower than previous years, due to cooler temperatures.

FERC Studies Report

Westhuis provided an update on the FERC required studies to date. There have been no contribution from special interest groups to offset the cost of these studies.

Utility Dashboards

Westhuis indicated he had nothing additional to add to the information provided in the Board packet.

Monthly Utility Report

Westhuis indicated he had nothing additional to add to the information provided in the Board packet. Myszewski inquired about the utility pole near Dick's Market. Westhuis explained the burn was related to a faulty cutout.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Westhuis shared public power week is the first week in October. Events are planned and welcomes all to participate.

ADJOURNMENT:

MSC Richter/Spafford moved to adjourn. Unanimous.

Myszewski announced meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy White, City Clerk